

The Mamie Downy Room

Mary Irene Downy, a member of the Philadelphia Brethren church, and the organist of the Sunday-school, died in May of last year. She was the daughter of Mrs. Downy, and a young lady of unusual piety and consecration. She attended the Brethren Sunday-school from her childhood and openly confessed Christ at the age of twelve years, and died at the age of nineteen from an internal abscess after an operation.

Her parents are in but very ordinary circumstances, but the great love for their only daughter at first prompted them to erect a monument to her memory. After hearing of the needs at the Ashland College Boarding Hall, her mother conceived the idea that the furnishing of a memorial room at the Hall would be more according to the wishes of her daughter and more nearly in harmony with the Divine will than spending the money in cold, dead granite.

When Brother Cassel came to Ashland recently he brought with him a crayon picture of Miss Downy and had it beautifully framed and placed in the room now completely furnished in every detail with the money which was originally intended to purchase a monument. It was our privilege to visit the room some time ago, and it gives one a sort of inspiration to look at the different articles and at the room as a whole. It is a beautifully furnished room, bedstead with all the bedding, such as mattress, pillows, sheets, etc.; a dresser with water bowl and pitcher; a complete chamber suite, pitcher and bowl, soap dish and towels, three chairs, one rocker and two others; also blind and curtain; last but not least a beautiful carpet covering the entire floor. On the whole the room is nicely fitted up, and does credit to Brother Cassel in the selection of the articles and to the matron of the Hall in the arrangement of them.

The honor however is due Sister Downy, and we feel sure that the Lord will richly bless and reward her mother in thus using the money. The room is to be known as the "Mamie Downy Room." The furnishings may not last as long as a marble monument would, but they will do a great deal more good and their practical use, and especially the motive which prompted the giver, will make them a monument that will endure forever. "Wheresoever this gospel is preached, this thing also which she did shall be spoken of her as a memorial." That self-sacrificing act of Mary lives in the hearts of thousands of people whose lives have been blest as they read the sweet story of a broken alabaster box. The example of Sister Downy is well worth the emulation of all who have either little or much of this world's goods.

The Sun Do Move

John Jasper began life as a slave on a Southern plantation. He was early converted, and learning to read his Bible, became first an exhorter then a preacher among the colored people. After the war he founded a church in Richmond, Virginia, which he served until his recent death. He built up a large church with 2000 names on its present roll. He had the reputation of a good Christian, a stirring preacher, and faithful pastor. But his fame rests chiefly upon a famous sermon preached for the first time many years ago, and often repeated since. When it became known that John

Jasper was going to preach his "Sun do move" sermon, great crowds of white as well as black thronged his church. It was a rattling sermon, and it proved conclusively by a literal interpretation of the Scriptures that the sun really revolves around the earth. Our great luminary is not standing still at all, as the astronomers tell us, but it "do move," just as Joshua said it did. He was honest in this contention, he read it in his Bible, and what the Bible said went, with him, and nothing else. People, no matter how learned, who attempted to "explain away the Scriptures," would have him to reckon with. He would withstand them if nobody else would. He denounced all astronomical systems, Copernican or what else, that contradicted Joshua. His sermon rang with all the deep earnestness, the absolute sureness, and the know-it-beyond-a-doubt-dness, of the typical literalist. If the sun doesn't move, then Joshua lied, and the Scriptures are not inspired. There was no escape from that. Good old Jasper perhaps knows more about it now than even the astronomers do. We believe that the "wonderful works of God" in the wide universe will be a favorite study of the redeemed.

Perils and Needs of the Church of the Twentieth Century

It is not likely that the perils and the needs of the church of this century will be very different from those of the century which has just passed into history. The dangers and the foes which confront Christianity and the Christian church are about the same in every age tho the methods of attack vary with the ever changing conditions of society, for Satan, too, has learned the law of adaptation, and in this one particular, perhaps more than in any other the children of this world are wiser in their day and generation than the children of light. Rev. William Tipper, of Pittsburg, Pa., had for his theme on last Sabbath morning the one which stands at the head of this article, and among other things he said:

We have just passed thru the open gates of the twentieth century, a century that promises to surpass all others in its achievements. And as we think of its possibilities I want to indicate to you some of the adversaries with which the church of today has to contend and some of the elements essential to its success.

One of the great perils of the church is the remarkable increase in our population, especially in our large cities, and a greater corresponding increase in crime and corruption. This brings to the church extraordinary moral and religious demands. These multitudes must be supplied with the gospel, and the church must bring to them wholesome religious instruction if she is ever going to win the mighty victories predicted of her.

Another peril of the church is the materialistic and unbelieving spirit of the age. Rationalistic speculation and destructive criticism abound on every hand. With these the church must contend, and the great question is whether she can stand the test.

The church needs today a Pauline ministry, and if we had it we should have Pauline successes. He was a man of faith in the sense of being under a profound conviction of